

The Office of the National Republican is at 511 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania avenue and D street, (Up stairs).

MILITARY CRITICISM.

"Once a bishop, always a bishop," may be a sound maxim in theology, but it does not follow that what was wise in military tactics a year ago, or six months ago, must necessarily be so to-day and for all coming time. The circumstances of war are constantly changing. An advance upon Richmond in the pleasant months of the fall is one thing. An advance amid the rigors of winter, and with soldiers absolutely perishing outright with the cold, or sinking helpless under its effects, is another and altogether different thing.

There have been periods in the history of this war, when, with the actual disposition of our armies, and with the actual temper and tactics of our generals, the only question was between advancing upon Richmond, and doing absolutely nothing. That is not the case now, when the war is being prosecuted with vigor and success in the Southwest, and with a prospect of speedily assuring to the national arms entire supremacy in the Valley of the Mississippi, and when the only black speck in the horizon is the possibility of disaster in Virginia. Among the reported maxims of the Rothschilds, is one, always to avoid unclimatic men and unclimatic places. Those who propose that the force under Gen. Burnside should perform the functions of an army of observation, do not propose to condemn it to a condition of idleness. The very name of an army of observation implies watchfulness and activity, with the view of taking advantage of any blunder or reduction of force by the enemy which may assure a victory over him. The policy of an army of observation is never to lose sight of the enemy, yet never to attack him except under circumstances of decided advantage, or to allow itself to be attacked when the attack can have any chance of success.

THE NOBLE POSITION OF MISSOURI.

Since the election in Missouri, in which the right was so triumphantly victorious, we have repeatedly called attention to the noble position taken by this loyal, patriotic and liberty-loving State. It is a theme to which we return with pleasure and pride. How nobly and bravely has she risen up from her old thralldom, and put on the queenly robes of Freedom! It was but the other day, and the ruffians of wrong and outrage and murder, and now she not only drives out these ruffians and stands firmly by the old flag, but she declares for emancipation. Gloriously rapid has been the revolution in Missouri, and it is a lesson full of instruction, as well as cheer. Not often in the moral world does the harvest follow so closely upon the sowing of the seed of freedom, and the casting in of the seed.

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the opening of all our southwestern territory to the blight and curse of slavery, was so unexpected, as well as so gigantic a wrong, that the public heart for the time was palsied, and the friends of freedom and civilization looked into each other's faces with dumb despair. But there was one man who didn't give up—a Yankee, in the far down east. Like a business man, he sat down and took a complete account of the whole affair. Kansas, he found, was lured, far away from the land of freedom, while it was upon the very border of the slave States.

But, said this brave thinker, freedom is fester of foot than slavery, and can go into a man's heart with fewer incubations. And so Eli Thayer gave the country his scheme for saving Kansas, and with such earnest words and sensible arguments, that the country rallied from its despair, and not only Kansas saved, but with it all wide country beyond, to the very gates of the mountains, and far away to the Pacific. And now, more glorious than all, as direct result of the salvation of Kansas, Missouri, one of the great States of the Union, great in both territory, and native resource, is stretching out her hands to freedom. Eli Thayer and the "New England Emigrant Aid Association," and the self-denying men who carried freedom and civilization into Kansas, and stood by them through those early months of storm and murder, in view of these recent developments in Missouri, must feel a satisfaction kindred to that enjoyed by good old Zimoun.

THE MISSISSIPPI.—With the opening of the Mississippi and the complete occupation of its lower valley, which are assured by the expeditions in progress, the rebellion will be virtually at an end. The Administration has been moving with steadiness and vigor to accomplish these great objects. Gen. Grant is enabled to advance by the heavy reinforcements which have been sent to him within three months, and the movement of Gen. McClellan down the river will not be long delayed. In thirty days after the President's proclamation comes into effect, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana will undergo a revolution in favor of the Union, which will be decisive and lasting. Those who doubt it have only to wait and see.

WEST VIRGINIA.—The admission of this State into the Union was voted yesterday in the House by a large majority, in concurrence with the Senate. The bill only needs the signature of the President to become a law. The operation of the bill is made contingent upon the incorporation into the constitution of the proposed State of a provision for the early, although gradual, abolition of slavery. The delay caused by this condition will be short, as the West Virginians will be only too happy to rid themselves of an institution which they know has been always an unmitigated burden.

With West Virginia, the Union now embraces twenty-four States.

In his letter to Mr. Adams of Sept. 29, four days after the issue of the President's immortal proclamation of emancipation, Gov. Seward says: "It is hoped and believed that, after the painful experience we have had of the danger to which the Federal connection with slavery is exposing the Republic, there will be few indeed who will insist that the decree which brings the connection to an end either could or ought to have been deferred."

The interests of humanity have now become identified with the cause of our country, and this has resulted not from any infraction of constitutional restraints by the Government, but from persistent, unconstitutional, and factious proceedings of the insurgents, who have opposed themselves to both.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Special Dispatches to the Republicans.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

THE TROOPS OF SUMNER AND HOOKER CHEER GEN. BURNSIDE. SUPPLIES ABUNDANT AND EASY OF ACCESS. OFFICERS DAILY ARRIVING. INDICATIONS OF A FORWARD MOVEMENT.

THE ENEMY'S GUNS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

FROM CHICAGO.

MORE BOGUS STORIES ABOUT PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

A GREEN STORY TO GULL THE FLATS.

THE VANDERBILT AFTER THE ALABAMA.

A RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

FROM LOUISVILLE.

CAPTURE OF UNITED STATES TROOPS.

NUMBER OF PAROLED TROOPS AT HARTSVILLE.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, December 10.

Gen. Burnside to-day visited Gen. Sumner's and Hooker's commands.

The troops on dress parade uproariously cheered him as he passed.

The energy of headquarters and commissaries has placed the army in such a condition that no want can be anticipated for some time to come.

The hardness of the roads, and increased facilities on the railroad, have enabled the quartermaster's department to bring forward from the shipping ports a large amount of supplies almost daily.

Should the army be put in motion at any hour, these departments will be found in excellent condition.

A large number of officers are daily arriving from various posts, and resuming their active duties in camp.

There has been considerable change of position of several army corps within the past few days, foreshadowing future movements of importance.

It is stated to-day by reliable observers that the enemy have one hundred and eighty guns in position on the south side of the Rappahannock, some of which are of heavy caliber.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—J. Wesley Green published a long statement to the effect that he brought certain peace propositions from Jeff. Davis to President Lincoln, and that he had several interviews with the President and two with the Cabinet upon the subject. The statement is sworn to by Mr. Green.

[On inquiry, it is ascertained that a man calling himself J. Wesley Green, and professing to reside at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, called upon the President of the United States, some time in November, and stated to him that he (Green) had had two interviews with Jeff. Davis, at Richmond, Virginia, on the last day of October, and also related certain statements which he said Davis had made to him upon the occasion. The President became satisfied that Green had not seen Davis at all, and that the whole story was a very shabby attempt at deception. Jeff. Davis can redeem Green's character, if he will, by verifying his statement.—Agent of the Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The Vanderbilt has sailed in search of the Alabama.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A freight engine on the Hudson railroad exploded near Poughkeepsie this morning, killing the engineer, and a fireman. The explosion was so great as to throw the tender, two cars, and a passing freight train bodily into the river.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—The schooner Flying Scud, from Nassau, saw off Abasco, November 28, Commodore Wilkes' flag ship, Cruiser.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 10.—No passenger trains left here for Nashville this morning.

The Journal says that in the late Hartsville affair nineteen United States troops were captured, and that the number of paroled troops (Colonel Stewart among them) was twenty-three hundred.

DANVILLE, Ky., Dec. 10.—Ex-Governor Owsley died to-day.

THE BATTLE NEAR FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS.

GEN. CURTIS' OFFICIAL REPORT.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief: My forces of the Army of the Frontier united near Fayetteville, in the State of Arkansas, fought a battle on Sunday night, when the enemy, 25,000 strong, under Gen. Hindman, attempted a flank movement on my left, to prevent the arrival of Gen. Herron's forces, which were then approaching from four days by forced marches.

Sunday, about 10 a. m., the enemy attacked Gen. Herron near Fayetteville, who by gallant and desperate fighting, held him in check for three hours, until Gen. Blunt's division came up and attacked him on the rear.

The fight continued desperate until dark. Our troops broke upon the battle-line, while the enemy retreated across the Boston Mountain. The loss on both sides is heavy, but much the greater on the side of the enemy, our artillery creating terrible slaughter in their greater numbers. The enemy had great advantage in position.

Among the enemy's killed was Col. Stein, formerly brigadier general of the Missouri State forces, who was sent to him within three months, and the movement of Gen. McClellan down the river will not be long delayed.

In thirty days after the President's proclamation comes into effect, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana will undergo a revolution in favor of the Union, which will be decisive and lasting.

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THE McDOWELL COURT OF INQUIRY.

Wednesday, December 10.

The court met at 11 o'clock.

The examination of General McClellan was resumed.

Questions by General McDowell:

Q. What communication from the President, through General Franklin or otherwise, did you receive as to the separation of General McDowell's corps from the army? Please state fully what you know concerning that separation, so far as it relates to General McDowell and what communication, if any, you made to the President concerning him in that action?

A. The substance of the communication through General Franklin, from the President, was that the President assumed the responsibility of the change of destination of General McDowell's corps, regarding that corps as necessary for the defense of Washington, although the troops actually left in Washington and in front of it, disposable for defense, were rather more than double the garrison, and considerably more than the largest number recommended by any of the corps commanders to be left in Washington.

I do not, at present, recall any communication made to the President in regard to the separation of General McDowell's corps. It would be necessary for me to consult my papers before I could answer the question definitely.

Q. Do you recollect having received any telegram from General Franklin, prior to his joining you on the Peninsula, concerning Gen. McDowell, and in connection with the separation of the latter's corps from the army?

A. Yes, I remember merely the general tenor of the dispatch, which was that in General Franklin's opinion, from his knowledge of the case, General McDowell had nothing to do with the separation of his corps from the Army of the Potomac.

Q. What was General Franklin's official position with respect to General McDowell, at the time he wrote the dispatch?

A. He commanded a division in the corps of General McDowell.

Q. Please examine this copy of the New York Herald, of Oct. 31st, containing a speech of Hon. J. B. Haskins, at Tarrytown, New York, and state whether the following remarks, attributed to you, are true or not:

"I have been unfortunate in not taking Richmond in consequence of my plan not being carried out, because I could not find out what had been done, and, as it was agreed upon, he should have done."

A. These are in their letter or spirit so far as relates to General McDowell, if not true in this, wherein are they not so?

A. [Smilingly.] The incident related in the speech is entirely new to me. I never received any dispatch from General Halleck, who was made Commanding-General of the Army of the Potomac, and am very sure that I never made the remark attributed to me. I have no doubt said, for it has ever been my opinion, that the Army of the Potomac, as it was then constituted, did not have the command of Gen. McDowell's corps.

Q. Did, or did not, Gen. Franklin, on his joining you on the Peninsula, give you a verbal message from the President, to the effect that you were to make a demonstration or diversion in your favor by going to Fredericksburg?

A. I think he did.

Q. After the receipt of base to Fort Monroe, did you, or did not, you, in your own mind, for the failure to join me on either occasion.

A. I think he did.

Q. McClellan. You mean the original part of the campaign, I presume.

Gen. McDowell. Yes, sir.

Gen. McClellan. No, it was not. All the active troops were to move in the general direction of the Peninsula, and Gen. McDowell here asked and obtained leave to present several documents bearing on the case, which were read as follows:

Major General McDowell, Commanding Department of the Rappahannock, Headquarters, December 10, 1862.

Major General Halleck, Commanding Department of the Potomac, Headquarters, December 10, 1862.

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known him as one who obtained entirely from anything in the shape of wine or spirituous liquors. I think even from tea and coffee.

[Laughter.] I know that has been his reputation among all who have known him, and I could imagine nothing more absurd than the charge of his being in any way under the influence of liquor.

General McDowell here stated that he had no more questions to ask the witness at present.

The following questions were then propounded by the court:

Q. State whether General McDowell was under your command at the time of your movement from the Potomac and the Peninsula?

A. He was.

Q. What orders were given, by you, to General McDowell, having reference to the movements on the Peninsula, and how did these plans affect the general plan of movement for the Army of the Potomac?

A. The orders were given for General McDowell to embark his corps upon the transports then engaged in carrying troops, and having his whole command embarked, to report to me for further orders, at Fort Monroe, or wherever I might happen to be, the intention being to move that corps, as a unit, by the York or Severn river, according to circumstances, that movement being an essential part of the campaign.

Q. Were these orders ever changed by you or others higher in authority, and if so, how?

A. They were not changed by me, but by the President of the United States. When in front of Yorktown with a considerable portion of the army under fire, I received the first intimation of any intention to change the destination of General McDowell's corps.

Q. Did you, after the investment of Yorktown, send any orders to General McDowell, or did you request any orders to be sent to General McDowell?

A. If so, what were the tenors of such orders, and the reasons for such orders, or from those to whom the request was made?

A. I sent no orders to Gen. McDowell after the investment of Yorktown, for the reason that I considered the information that he was detached from my command on the very day we arrived in front of Yorktown.

Q. When you caused the occupation of Hanover Court House, did you expect the co-operation of General McDowell's corps?

A. I expected that the co-operation of General McDowell's corps would be secured, and that the result would be the probable result of a junction of McDowell's corps and the Army of the Potomac.

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